

## Crib-Work Cushion in Front of Fire Ruins to Protect Subway from Crash



THE TIMBER PROTECTION FOR TUNNEL.

## SHAKY FIRE RUINS SEARCHED FOR DEAD FIREMEN'S BODIES

Subway Traffic Resumed Under Protection of Big Timber Cribwork on Street in Case of Collapse.

Chief Croker, of the Fire Department, after a careful examination of the wrecked Parker Building, at Nineteenth street and Fourth avenue, to-day declared the steel skeleton remaining after the fire to be perfectly safe. Upon this declaration a gang of fifty workmen went to work in the ruins of the ground floor to recover the bodies of the three firemen who are still missing.

It is probable that the screen of heavy timbers placed over Fourth avenue, between Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets, to protect the roof of the subway, will soon be removed and that the Fourth avenue cars will be allowed to run through the danger zone.

Chief Croker says he has seen many buildings in worse condition than the Parker Building, but that the steel skeleton will hold any further. The timber screen or cushion to catch the building should it fall out into Fourth avenue and take up the shock from the subway roof is something new in the way of safeguarding railroad travel. It was constructed upon the recommendation of the police and fire authorities at a time when the Parker Building looked as though it might fall at any minute.

All through last night an army of men worked with the big timbers, putting them in place. Near them were firemen and policemen, and further away were the workers under Bartholomew Dunn, the wrecking contractor. On the Fourth avenue and Eighteenth street sides of the building were three fire-engines pumping water into the smoking ruins, and over on the Nineteenth street side was a fourth engine, which was working to clear the cellar of more than eight feet of water.

**No Hope for Victims.** Close to this last engine stood Battalion Chief Short, with a picked body of firemen, who for twenty-four hours had been trying to get into the ruins to search for the bodies of their three missing comrades. For a time it was thought that these men might still be alive, but to-day Battalion Chief Short looked into the water-filled cellar and announced that all hope was gone. "If those poor fellows haven't been drowned," he said.

All that is left of the Parker Building bulges ten feet out over Fourth avenue at the sixth floor. In the rear there is also a perceptible bulge and on Eighteenth street and Nineteenth street parts of the mass of iron and steel seem to hang suspended in the air. Engineers have expressed the opinion that when the collapse does occur the girders will buckle in and the frame work fall like a pack of cards on its own foundations.

There were 200 guests in the Hotel Florence when the fire drove them to

out tracks blocked in the way. Capt. Shaw made a grab for the man and the other. The policemen were ordered to keep close to the framework and to arrest any man who attempted to remove a beam. While the building commissioner would not permit his inspectors to risk their lives making a further examination, members of the Fire Patrol searched the upper floors for the bodies of their comrades. John Fallon, they discovered only a fireman's helmet, which was identified by William O'Connor, as that of his brother, George O'Connor, of Engine No. 72. It was buried on the third floor, not far from where the floors were carried down from top to bottom, convincing the men that the two missing bodies probably are in the pile of debris in the flooded basement.

The bravery of the fire patrolmen in risking their lives to find Fallon's body where members of the city department are forbidden to go emphasized their devotion to one another. The patrolmen are employed by the Board of Fire Underwriters, and although working for great insurance corporations which contribute to the pensions of the city's firemen, they are unprotected by pensions themselves.

**Hero's Widow Dangerously Ill.** Fallon had been married less than a year when killed on duty. His widow, about to become a mother, is dangerously ill. The patrolmen are hoping that the underwriters will provide a pension for her and eventually a system of pensions for their other dependents.

### WIFE OF AMERICAN CONSUL TO ROME DEAD.

ROME, Jan. 12.—The wife of the American Consul-General at Rome, Hector de Castro, who was Miss Grace Aldrich, of New York, died yesterday from an operation following the birth of her child. The child died soon after it was born. Mrs. de Castro was forty-two years old.

**\$5,000 FOR NAVY SONG.** WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Representative Maynard, of Virginia, wishes "Uncle Sam" to buy a song called "Don't Scorn a Sailor," from a constituent of his, Harry E. Moore, of Norfolk, and modestly asks that \$5,000 be paid for it.

there completely block our tracks. I want them removed. If they are not removed I will send a gang of men here and remove them." "You continue to talk in that way," replied Capt. Shaw, "and I'll have you escorted to the station house and put in a cell." "Well, I'll have these tracks cleared," answered the man. "I will not have

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Serving Tables.....26.00, 40.00 and 60.00  
former prices 33.00, 57.00 and 74.00

Bedroom Furniture.

Bureaus.....38.00, 50.00 and 75.00  
former prices 49.00, 70.00 and 92.00  
Chiffoniers.....35.00, 45.00 and 60.00  
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Toilet Tables.....22.00, 28.00 and 40.00  
former prices 30.00, 41.00 and 56.00  
Bedsteads.....45.00, 55.00 and 75.00  
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Chairs and Rockers 8.50, 10.00 and 11.00  
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1.45  
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usual prices 2.50 and 3.50

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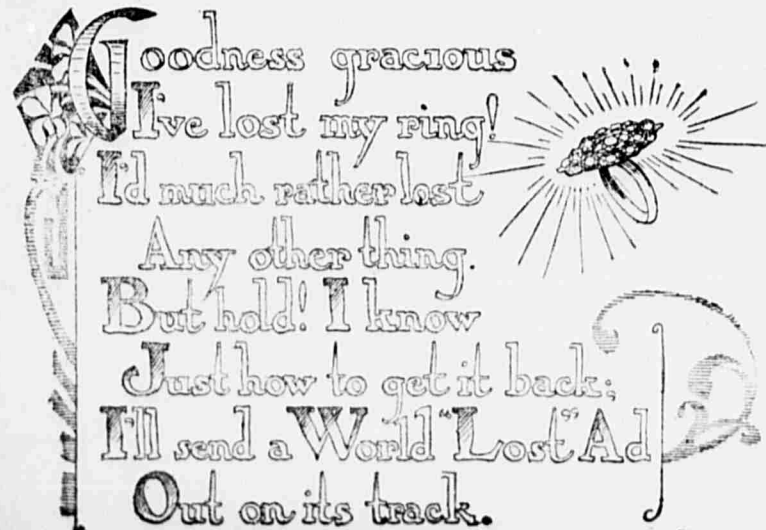
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